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SOLE AGENTS—
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12, Queen's Road Central.

Hongkong Daily Press.

ESTABLISHED 1857.

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GENUINE TANSAN
BOTTLED BY
J. CLIFFORD WILKINSON
SOLE AGENTS—
H. PRICE & CO.,
12, Queen's Road Central.

No. 14,322 號式拾貳百叁千肆萬壹第 日癸初月正年十叁緒光 HONGKONG, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 1904 壹拜禮 號式拾貳月式年肆零百九千壹萬壹第 香港 PRICE, \$3 PER MONTH.

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LIMITED.
ESTABLISHED 1841.

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Selected
Distillations of the
Finest Scotch Whiskies
Apply to
SIEMSEN & CO., Hongkong.

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TIME TABLE.
WEEK DAYS.
7.30 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
8.00 a.m. to 8.30 a.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
8.30 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
9.00 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
9.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
10.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
10.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
11.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
11.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
12.00 p.m. to 12.30 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
12.30 p.m. to 1.00 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
1.00 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
1.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
2.00 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
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4.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
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5.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
5.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
6.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
6.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
7.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
NIGHT CARS.
1.45 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
SUNDAYS.
8.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
9.00 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
9.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
10.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
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5.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
6.00 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
6.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
7.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. ... Every 15 minutes.
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Extra cars at 11.30 p.m. and 11.45 p.m.
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Hongkong, 14th January, 1904.

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PORTLAND CEMENT.
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RICKSHAS, BICYCLES, and PNEUMATIC
TYRES and BALL BEARINGS throughout.
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all branches of the business. Re-ensembling a
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43 & 44, Queen's Road East.
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Estimates, Designs & Prices on Application
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35 Bedrooms, excellently furnished.
Bath to each room.
Dining-room and Cuisine under strict
supervision.
European and American Wines, Spirits, and
Beers.
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Terms: \$4 to \$7.00 per day; \$75 to \$120 per
month.
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Manager.
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If there is one thing that you want, when you go into a Drug Store, it is **QUALITY.** You want Quality in all Drugs and Chemicals; Quality in all prescription work; Quality in everything that has to do with medicine.
Is it not so?
Certainly! There can be no question about it! That is why our trade is so large. It is a recognized fact that our label on a bottle of medicine stamps it with Quality, because it never goes out on any bottle or box of medicine that does not possess Quality.

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CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS,
THE APOTHECARIES HALL.
WATKINS BUILDING.
Telephone 344.

IRISH WHISKEY.
SIR JOHN POWER & SON, LIMITED.
We are authorised to announce that the King has by Royal Warrant dated 16th December, 1903, appointed Messrs. John Power and Son, Ltd. John's Lane Distillery, to be Whiskey Distillers to His Majesty in Ireland. The famous distillery, the character of the products of which has now received Royal recognition, was established in 1791.—*Irish Daily Independent*, 24th Dec. 1903.
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15, Queen's Road,
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VELVET PILE AND BRUSSELS CARPETS.
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CUTLER, PALMER & CO.
ESTABLISHED IN LONDON IN 1815.
SHIPPERS TO CHINA FOR 75 YEARS.
Their Brands are favourably known all over the World.
The following are some of their Stocks with the underlined—
SUPERB OLD COGNAC,
\$23.50 PER DOZ.
Distinguished by Four Stars on the label.
ANOTHER FINE COGNAC, \$18.50 per doz.
Less old than the above.
IMPERIAL BRANDY
\$12.00 PER CASE.
THE ELITE OF WHISKY—
"THE PALM MAIL."
\$21 PER DOZ.
11 Years old: the finest quality shipped.
Each bottle bears an Analyst's certificate.
C. P. & Co.'s OWN SPECIAL
BLEND WHISKY,
\$11.00 PER DOZ.
Very soft, palatable, and mature.
EVERYBODY SHOULD TRY THESE ITEMS
AGENTS—SIEMSEN & CO., HONGKONG.

C. P. & Co.'s INVALIDS' PORT
\$21 PER DOZ.
This fine Wine is old, soft, and of grand flavour.
See analysis and certificate by Professor Cassell.
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\$15.00 PER DOZ.
A fine, full, and fruity wine.
AMOROSO SHERRY,
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A natural and most pleasant wine to the taste
BENEDICTINE LIQUEUR—
D.O.M.,
\$41.75 PER DOZ. QUARTS.
\$43.75 PER 2 DOZ. PINTS.
THEY ARE UNEQUALLED AT THE PRICE

THE ELITE OF WHISKY—
"THE PALM MAIL."
\$21 PER DOZ.
11 Years old: the finest quality shipped.
Each bottle bears an Analyst's certificate.
C. P. & Co.'s OWN SPECIAL
BLEND WHISKY,
\$11.00 PER DOZ.
Very soft, palatable, and mature.
EVERYBODY SHOULD TRY THESE ITEMS
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THE LAHMEYER ELECTRICAL CO. LD.
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ELECTRIZITAETS ACTIEN GESELLSCHAFT VORM.
W. LAHMEYER & CO., FRANKFURT A/M.
FOR ESTIMATES OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS OF ANY DESCRIPTION
Apply to—
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Little ... 1.75
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Hyne ... 1.75
THE "PARADISE" COAL BOAT, by
Cutcliffe Hyne ... 1.75
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FOR
CHINA, JAPAN AND FAR EAST.
\$1.00.
BRITISH JOURNAL PHOTOGRAPHY
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THE CHOICE-1 AND LARGEST VARIETY, FROM PARIS AND LONDON.
MAYONS GLACES, CRYSTALLISED FRUITS.
TOM SMITH'S CRACKERS.
XMAS PLUM PUDDINGS.
DATES, FIGS, RAISINS, ALMONDS AND NUTS.
STILTON, CHEDDAR, GORGONZOLA, ROQUEFORT, CAMENBERT,
SAVOIE, CREAM CHEESE, MACLAREN'S AND YOUNG AMERICAN
CHEESE.
YORK HAM and BEST ENGLISH BACON. TOYS, TOYS.
DECORATIONS AND CANDLES FOR XMAS TREES.
G. GIRAULT.

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NERNST ELECTRIC LIGHT.
BEAUTY OF ILLUMINATION COMBINED WITH GREAT ECONOMY
AS CHEAP AS GAS!
FOR PARTICULARS APPLY TO
HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO. or SIEMSEN & CO.

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FILMS,
AND ACCESSORIES.
DEVELOPING AND PRINTING UNDERTAKEN.
GOOD WORK, PROMPT RETURN.

LONG, HING & CO.,
PHOTO GOODS STORE,
17A, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.
Hongkong, 21st December, 1903.
ELECTRIC LIGHT
ELECTRIC LAMPS OF ALL KINDS AND AT MODERATE PRICES
ALWAYS IN STOCK.
EDM. JOHANNSEN,
10, DES VEUZ ROAD CENTRAL.

VICTORIA HOTEL,
SHAMEN, CANTON
BRITISH CONCESSION.
GOOD Accommodation.
Excellent Cuisine.
Every Convenience for Tourists.
WM. FARMER, Proprietor.
Canton, 6th February, 1904.
CONNAUGHT HOUSE.
A FIRST CLASS HOTEL Situated near
the Banks and Principal Offices.
Excellent Cuisine and Wines.
Large and lofty Rooms, Elegantly Furnished
Hydraulic Elevator, hot and cold water
throughout.
Special Rates for Tourists.
Launch Service for Guests.
For Terms, apply to the
MANAGER.
Hongkong, 31st October, 1902.

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THE STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE
COMPANY.
(ESTABLISHED 1825.)
Funds ... \$20,000,000
Claims Paid ... \$22,000,000
Reserve ... \$1,300,000
THE STANDARD is the ONLY British
Life Office having a LOCAL BOARD
OF DIRECTORS in the Far East with full
powers to accept proposals, issue policies, pay
claims and surrenders, and advance loans.
ON THE SPOT without reference home.
Attention is respectfully drawn to the advan-
tages of assuring in a large BRITISH Com-
pany of old reputation.
For Full Particulars and Rates, apply to—
Messrs. DODWILL & CO., LD.,
a1891-2 Agents, Hongkong.

HONGKONG HOTEL
A FIRST-CLASS HOTEL IN EVERY RESPECT
Elegantly Furnished Reading, Drawing
Music, Ping-pong and Smoking Rooms.
Private Bar and Two Billiard Rooms for
Hotel Residents.
Dining Accommodation for 300 persons.
Private and Special Dining Rooms.
European Chef and Indian Curry Cook.
Ladies' Attendants in Tea Rooms with European
Matron in attendance.
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Hydraulic Elevators to each Floor.
Bedroom Accommodation—134 rooms.
Electric Lighting and Electric Fans, if
required.
Hot and Cold Water throughout.
Wines and Groceries specially imported by
the Hotel Co.
Wines cooled by Hotel refrigerators.
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machinery.
Fire Extinguishing Mains and Emergency
Exits on every floor.
MODERATE CHARGES! NO EXTRAS!
H. HAYNES,
Manager.

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Admirably Situated. Sheltered from the
North-East Monsoon and Open to the South
West Monsoon.
A COVERED GANGWAY LEADS
FROM THE TRAMWAY TERMINUS
INTO THE HOTEL.
Telephone No. 29.
Town Office: 7, DUNDRELL STREET.

HOTEL CRAIGIEBURN.
PUNNETT'S GAP, The PEAK, near the
Tram Terminus.
Tel. 56.
For Terms, apply to the
MANAGER.
Hongkong, 2nd July, 1900.
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A HIGH CLASS PRIVATE HOTEL.
Ladies' Afternoon Tea-Rooms.
Private Bar and Billiard-Rooms.
Hot and Cold Water throughout.
Electrically Lighted. Electric Fans (if
required).
Electric Passenger Elevator to each floor.
Table D'Hôte at separate tables.
For Terms, &c., apply to the—
MANAGER.
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(HOTEL-SANITARIUM OF SOUTH
CHINA)
MACAO
HAS been re-opened under European
management and most strict supervision
as to food, cleanliness, and hygiene of the place.
All comforts of a home.
A most pleasant retreat for those desirous of
a few days rest and quiet.
Comfortable accommodation for travellers
paying a visit to the historical and picturesque
colony of Macao.
Macao is 40 miles south-west of Hongkong.
One steamer (as Hongkong), daily to and
from Hongkong, and two steamers to and from
Canton, give easy communication with both
these centres.
Cable Address—"BOA VISTA."
For Terms, apply to
THE MANAGER.

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TO THE WEARIED.
THERE is no nicer place to spend a few
days in quiet rest than
MACAO,
And there is no more Comfortable Hotel in the
Far East than the
MACAO HOTEL.
WM. FARMER,
Proprietor.

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ESTABLISHED 1841.

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

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BLIND

VERY OLD LIQUEUR

SCOTCH WHISKY.

THERE'S NOT A
HEADACHE

IN A

WHOLE CASE!

A. S. WATSON & CO.
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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

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Correspondents must forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.
All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

HONGKONG, 22ND FEBRUARY, 1904

The principal news of the past two days is conveyed by REUTER'S telegram of the 19th instant, published in another column to-day. We have already learnt that the Tsar has issued a Manifesto couched in bitter language, in which he declared that "much time is necessary to strike blows worthy of the dignity and the might of Russia; Japan's treachery and provocation, however, will yet be avenged a hundredfold." Further details of the Manifesto put rather a different aspect on it, for it is now stated to forecast, by implication, a long delay before decisive action is taken. Russia's unpreparedness is also gathered, a fact which has long been suspected and which led so many to anticipate that she would ultimately give way rather than risk a war. Commenting on the Manifesto, the London Times, which has still, in spite of the troubles befalling it in connection with its representative at St. Petersburg, more than usual means of obtaining information from sources in Russia, infers that Russia intends to fight a war of exhaustion and to imitate the policy which was adopted against the Great NAPOLEON when he attempted the impossible task of invading Russia. That policy was one of retreat. Applied to the present case, it means that Russia will retire, leaving the Japanese to follow her. As the Times observes, this is a great resolve, but its success depends on the will of the enemy. It is supposed that Russia means to hold only Port Arthur and Vladivostok, withdrawing her troops from Manchuria and North-eastern Siberia, leaving the Japanese armies to follow until they exhaust themselves. One comment on this seems obvious. When NAPOLEON pursued the defeated Russians to Moscow he was

trusting in the immensity of his forces, gathered from all parts of Europe. The Japanese at the present moment are in a case far different from that of NAPOLEON. They have only their own forces, the exact proportions of which they know, to draw upon, and they have before them the disastrous example of the French. Japan has shown herself so sagacious that it is impossible to conceive that she will fall into the blunder of NAPOLEON. If she contents herself with cutting off Port Arthur and Vladivostok and with occupying and fortifying Corea, it is difficult to see why she should commit any strategical error. The isolated ports must fall, through starvation; and the Manchurian Railway being broken up, as it would be if Russia were obliged to cease to guard it, there seems to be no reason why Japan should not acquire an impregnable position. Japan can afford to wait. She has no inducement to press forward, having nothing to gain. The evacuation of Manchuria and the loss of her two strongholds means absolute defeat to Russia. She has no naval reserves in Europe sufficient to restore her position in North Chinese waters, and in the face of a resolute and civilised foe her re-advance in North-east Asia would be a stupendous task. Unless the Japanese Government loses its head, there is no reason whatever why it should imitate the historical error of pursuing the Parthian retreat. All that is required is to destroy the means of return and to consolidate the defence against any such possibility. Russia's retreat at the present juncture gives China her opportunity. Overshadowed during recent years by her aggressive neighbour Russia, China has grown weaker and weaker. But if the Russians are compelled to withdraw from Chinese territory and Japanese influence grows sufficiently at the court of Peking, strong enough bulwarks should be built up in China to prevent the damaged Russian power from creeping back again. It is hinted that the "Yellow Peril" cry will be revived again. As long as Great Britain and the United States of North America refuse to be frightened, this bogey should cease to be able to scare the world. Russia has still a power, it must be admitted, in the Press of France and Germany; but that power is much weakened, and the "Peril" has sunk to the level of popular art, as illustrated in the German Kaiser's celebrated cartoon in 1900. Hitherto it has been customary to treat the Asiatic nations as mere prey and their territories as spoil for the nations of the West. It is beginning to be learnt that such a view does not make for the peace of the Occidental Powers. A strong Japan and a strong China, it is now felt, will not damage the European peoples, but rather tend to deprive them of reasons for strife. The lesson has been a hard one to learn, but its acquirement should be productive of peace in the world.

Mr. A. C. Franklin has been appointed to act as Government Analyst during the absence of Mr. F. Brown.

Mr. R. H. Crofton has been appointed to act as Local Auditor during the absence of Mr. H. C. Nicolson on service in Ceylon.

The last dance of the season under the auspices of the Masonic Quadrille Club will be held in the Masonic Hall on the 4th prox., commencing at 9 p.m. A special late launch will be in waiting for Kowloon visitors. Mr. A. P. Goodwin has been appointed Hon. Secretary of the Club, vice Mr. G. J. W. King, resigned.

It is notified in the Gazette that at a meeting of seafarers and subscribers of St. John's Cathedral, held on the 20th January, the following were elected lay members of the Church Body, for the year 1904:—His Honour Sir W. Meigh Goodman, Kt., The Honourable J. M. Atkinson, M.B., Messrs. R. T. Wright (Honorary Treasurer), A. Bryer (Honorary Secretary), W. Armstrong, H. W. Slade. Mr. J. C. Peter was elected auditor.

With reference to the death in Manila of Mrs. Edward O'Brien, wife of the Editor of the Sunday Star, which was reported last week, it appears that the lady was formerly Miss Elsa de Lilla, who was some time with the Arthur Hill Company, but on returning to Manila, where she was engaged to be married to Mr. O'Brien, she was taken seriously ill, and when the doctors announced that the illness would terminate fatally, it was arranged to have the marriage ceremony performed immediately, which was done, amidst a scene of sorrow. The bride died the following day. Mrs. O'Brien, who was only eighteen years of age, will no doubt be remembered in Hongkong. She was a daughter of a well-known Sydney merchant, and was ambitious to succeed on the stage, on which she had, however, but a brief career. The remains were sent back to her home in Sydney for interment, great sympathy being extended to the young husband in his bereavement.

SATURDAY'S FIRES.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Chinese New Year festival is past and over, a fire broke out at 9.50 p.m. on Saturday at No. 352 Queen's Road, Central, which had very disastrous results in that the fire was communicated to the adjoining building which it completely gutted, with the premises in which it originated. Just how the fire was caused could not be ascertained, and it had made considerable progress before it was discovered. Breaking out in the second story of No. 325, the shop of Sang Fong Li, cloth-merchant, it was soon well under way, and when the Fire Brigade arrived, in charge of Mr. Hallifax, and Inspector Withers assisting, it was at once seen that it was hopeless to attempt to save No. 352 as it was then nearly burnt out, the fire having made considerable advance in No. 354 occupied by Kwang Cheng Wan, and the firemen's attention was directed towards preventing a further spread, in which they succeeded, and at 11 p.m. all danger to surrounding property, through their efforts, was over.

The amount of damage done had not been estimated, at the time of going to press, but No. 352 was insured for \$16,500, and No. 354 for \$14,500.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"

S.P.C.A., Hongkong, 20th February.
SIR,—With reference to the letter of "Eyewitness" appearing in your issue of the 16th inst. I would ask him, and at the same time all others who may witness acts of cruelty to animals, to at once inform the Police, who will take the matter up and secure the punishment of the offenders.—Yours faithfully,
MOWBRAY S. NORTHCOTE,
Hon. Secretary.

HONGKONG BREWERY CO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 20th February.
SIR,—My attention has been called to a letter which appeared in your last issue signed "Butterfield and Swire, General Agents, Taikoo Sugar Refinery Co., Ltd.," in which the writers point out that they have entered into no agreement with the Brewery Co. for the supply of any water from their reservoir, and that they have no intention of doing so. In my speech, I never referred to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, nor the Taikoo Sugar Refinery, and I never said anything to lead anyone to suppose that we have made any agreement with them for a supply of water from their reservoir. We have an ample supply of water of our own, of excellent and suitable quality for all our purposes, flowing through our own property; and in addition, we have the right to draw from the dam or reservoir to which I referred (and which is not on the Taikoo Sugar Refinery Co.'s property) as much water as will flow through a two-inch pipe. That pipe and supply of water is provided for in the Assignments from the vendor to myself, and from myself to the Brewery Co. We have not approached Messrs. Butterfield and Swire for any supply of water for the reasons given above.—I am, Sir, Yours
E. A. MEURER.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S SERVICE.

THE WAR—RUSSIAN REINFORCEMENTS.

LONDON, 18th February.
Six Russian warships passed Gotland, Sweden, on the 15th instant, going south.
The Tsar, reviewing the Siberian regiment proceeding to the front, in a stirring address wishing them success and invoking a blessing on the Russian arms, concluded by saying: "Good-bye, my brothers!"

THE MANCHURIAN LINE.

LONDON, 18th February.
A telegram received in St. Petersburg says the Japanese are bringing Tanguis to destroy the Manchurian railway.

NEW NAVAL COMMANDER FOR THE RUSSIAN FLEET.

LONDON, 18th February.
Admiral Makaroff has left St. Petersburg. He supercedes Admiral Stark in command of the fleet at Port Arthur, and is accompanied by a large staff, including Engineers and Naval Architects.

THE TSAR'S MANIFESTO.

LONDON, 18th February.
The Tsar has issued a manifesto, bitterly inveighing against Japan, in which he declares that much time is now necessary to strike blows worthy of the dignity and the might of Russia; Japan's treachery and provocation, however, will yet be avenged a hundredfold.

LONDON, 19th February.
The remarkable wording of the Tsar's recent Manifesto, admitting implicitly the unpreparedness of Russia and foreshadowing a long delay before decisive action is taken, is much commented on. The Times considers it means a war of exhaustion and another wholesale retreat similar to that from Moscow, leaving Port Arthur and Vladivostok isolated. This, the Times observes, is a great resolve, but its success depends on the will of the enemy.

AT PORT ARTHUR.

LONDON, 19th February.
The only reference to the attack on Port Arthur on the 14th instant published in St. Petersburg is the statement that a 12 in. shell struck and slightly damaged the Volunteer steamer Kozau (?). The Japanese believe that the warship torpedoed was the cruiser Bogatir.
A Lagation despatch from Tokyo says that no attempt has yet been made by the Japanese to land near Pigeon Bay or its neighbourhood, that no Japanese vessel has been destroyed, and that the fighting power of the Japanese fleet is practically unimpaired.

THE SIBERIAN MAIL SERVICE.

LONDON, 19th February.
The mail service to the Far East via Siberia is suspended.

RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

LONDON, 19th February.
Russia has informed the United States that she will not grant an exequatur to Mr. Morgan, the United States Consul at Dalny, because she desires no foreign officials in the Liaotung peninsula during the war.

CHINESE LABOUR FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

LONDON, 18th February.
Mr. Samuel's amendment to the address opposing Chinese labour in the Transvaal has been rejected. The Transvaal is now able to proceed with the importation of Chinese labour.

THE BALKANS.

LONDON, 18th February.
The Albanian insurgents have been routed, losing 800 in killed and wounded. The Turkish loss was heavy.

OBITUARY.

LONDON, 18th February.
The death is announced of Senator Hanna, the U.S. Republican leader, but the opponent of President Roosevelt.

THE RUSSIAN REFUGEES.

As stated by us on Saturday, the Russian refugees from the Vargus and Koreetz picked up by H.M.S. Talbot at Chempopo on the 9th inst. are coming down to Hongkong on H.M.S. Amphitrite. Such of them as are able to be moved will be taken on to Colombo in the Indo-China steamer Namsang, being transferred to her in Mirs Bay. We understand that some 40 of them, the most seriously wounded, will be placed in hospital here, the local Government having already been warned to prepare beds for them. The remainder of them, over 100 in number, will be sent on to Colombo, to be lodged in the camps previously occupied by the Boer prisoners who were detained in Ceylon. Six officers, two colour-sergeants, and 50 marines will be placed on the Namsang to escort the Russians down to Colombo.

VOLUNTEER NOTES.

Artillery Companies will parade at Head Quarters at 5.30 p.m. on Monday, 22nd inst., for 15 Pr. B. L. gun drill (Sergeant Bartolome, R.G.A.) and at Head Quarters at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, 26th inst., for 15 Pr. B. L. gun drill (C.S.M. Whelan, R.G.A.).

THE WAR.

Whether rice will be declared contraband of war by Japan is still an open question, says the Singapore Times. It may be stated, in confirmation of what was said the other day, that a firm in Singapore received a telegram from its agents in Nagasaki to the effect that Japan has, or at any rate had, every intention of making rice contraband of war. The result of the attack by the Japanese on the Russian fleet may, however, lead to a reconsideration of that idea, for if Japan realises that she is perfectly competent to maintain unrestricted traffic between her own ports and the Straits and is also capable of preventing the entrance of vessels to Russian ports then the original aims she had in view will be attained.

The steamer Voronej, of the Russian Volunteer Fleet, arrived at Singapore on the 12th inst. The vessel left Shanghai before war had been declared by Japan, and the consternation of the captain, officers, and passengers when they learned the position of matters can be better imagined than described. The Voronej comes, of course, under the rules of neutrality, which require that she must leave, except in the event of certain specified eventualities, within 24 hours. She can only take in such supplies as are absolutely necessary to carry her on to the next port. The Voronej is stated to have practically no cargo on board, about 60 passengers from Port Arthur are travelling to Europe. It is expected that the steamer having reached thus far on her westward journey in safety will manage to reach Odessa unharmed. She was to leave the next day. Meanwhile a Boarding Officer and a European Police Officer are alongside in a Government launch. She will be watched until she leaves the port, says the Singapore paper.

Telegrams received in Singapore state that heavy speculation in silver was in progress in London. The silver market, so far, has been only slightly affected by the outbreak of hostilities, but the operations of speculators in London, due entirely, of course, to the source of events in the Farther East, may have a decided effect. It is observed that Singapore has not yet been affected by these speculations. An embargo on rice would probably have more effect on the market than the operations of London speculators in silver.

HONGKONG RACES.

Yesterday morning the Derby ponies put in some good performances, both the Roses being on the inside course and a ladder on the outside course, which, being turf, is not so fast as the inside; so when considering the work of the 3 ponies allowance must be made for same, but it certainly appears to be a very close thing between them. Fiscal, Rocket, and Tai Yat's performances were also considered good, and the former is looked upon with great favour for the Valley Stakes. Times:—

Set, 1-mile:—36, 1.11, 1.45, 2.16.
Muscatel, 1-mile:—31, 1.05, 1.41, 2.16.
Rare Rose, 1-mile:—35, 1.09, 1.41, 2.13, 2.46.
Rebel King, 1-mile:—32, 1.07, 1.40, 2.14.
Vancouver, 1-mile:—38, 1.06, 1.38, 2.10, 2.42.

Discord, 1-mile: last mile, 34, 1.08, 1.41, 2.12.
Algerine, 1-mile:—last 11, 39, 1.16, 1.51, 2.21, 2.52.

Polka, 1-mile:—32, 1.07, 1.42, 2.15.
Quebec, 1-mile:—34, 1.07, 1.41.
Coronet Rose, 1-mile:—36, 1.09, 1.41, 2.12, 2.43.

La France Rose, 1-mile:—33, 1.06, 1.38, 2.10, 2.43.
Aladdin, 1-mile:—36, 1.11, 1.43, 2.17, 2.50.

Royal, 1-mile:—36, 1.10, 1.45, 2.19.
Tao To Tann, 1-mile:—33, 1.05, 1.42.
Tai Yat, 1-mile:—30, 1.03, 1.35.

Kid, 1-mile:—40, 1.18, 1.51.
Standard and Manilla, 1-mile:—36, 1.12, 1.48, 2.24, 2.59.

Rocket, 1-mile:—32, 1.05, 1.38, 2.10.
Fiscal, 1-mile:—36, 1.11, 1.45, 2.15.

Eclipsa, 1-mile:—33-4/5, 1.06, 1.38-4/5, 2.15.
Sentry, Mongooose, and Alarm, 1-mile:—1.39.
Panjandrum and Emigrant, 1-mile:—37, 1.12, 1.42, 2.23, 2.59, 3.32.

Talbot, 1-mile:—35, 1.07, 1.44, 2.15.
Chantagun, 1-mile:—last 1, 1.07.
Culex and Fair Trade, 1-mile:—37, 1.18, 1.48, 2.23, 2.57.

Che Sai, 1-mile:—33, 1.05, 1.36, 2.03.
Dandy, 1-mile:—30, 58, 1.27.
Discovery, 1-mile:—37, 1.10, 1.42, 2.14, 2.48.

DEFAULTING WITNESSES.

At the Supreme Court on Saturday, three witnesses who had been bound over in \$200 each to appear in a manslaughter case failed to attend. They were all relatives of the accused. The Hon. Attorney-General Sir Henry S. Berkeley explained that these witnesses, who lived in a village just on the borders of China in the New Territory, had been duly summoned to attend. When they failed to appear in Hongkong enquires were made by the police, and it was found that they were not in their village or the vicinity. If the police had no power to detain such witnesses some power should be taken to keep them under arrest pending their trial.

The Chief Justice, Sir William M. Goodman, concurred, remarking that in some terrible murder case they might have the chief witnesses spirited away over the border. These witnesses were all relatives of the accused, and were all kept away apparently. There ought to be power, if the police had any doubt as to whether they would come, to issue a warrant for the arrest of witnesses who would not come otherwise. The witnesses' recognisances were exonerated.

CRICKET.

H.K.C.C. v. H.K.H.C.
This game on the Cricket Ground on Saturday last was not treated very seriously, an anxiety to get away to see the field tie in the Happy Valley being very noticeable as the afternoon wore on. The Hockey Club went in first on a poor wicket and could do little with the bowling. H. Hancock at the beginning of the innings and T. C. Gray toward the end did fairly well, but the whole team (which included one Chinese substitute) could only total 87. It was just after half-past two when the Cricket Club went in, Pearce and Chichester being the first pair of batsmen. Pearce was soon out, but when Turner, whose last match this is, and who was captaining the team, joined Chichester, runs came pretty fast. Chichester left at 35 and Ward at 43, but Turner and Walter Dixon passed the Hockey Club's total before the latter was out. Turner ultimately made 70, but his innings was by no means faultless. Mackenzie did best of the remaining men, and finally a total of 191 was attained, Piper failing to turn up. Scores and analysis:—

HOCKEY CLUB.	
H. Hancock, c. sub. b. Mackenzie	10
Lt. Gibson, R.N., c. Ponsbury, b. Mackenzie	2
Lt. Howard, R.N., b. Chichester	6
J. Hooper, c. Pearce, b. Farquhar	1
Surg. Hooley, R.N., c. Farquhar, b. Mackenzie	7
G. P. Lamont, c. Ponsbury, b. Mackenzie	1
T. C. Gray (capt.), c. W. Dixon, b. Farquhar	2
G. H. Edwards, c. W. Dixon	3
Rev. H. B. Wells, not out	9
Tai Sam, c. Pearce, b. Farquhar	2
J. T. Dixon, c. Chichester, b. Farquhar	1
Extras	5
Total	87

BOWLING ANALYSIS.	
HOCKEY CLUB.	
Chichester	0 7 10 1
Mackenzie	0 2 27 4
Farquhar	8 4 3 21 4
Dixon	6 1 41 1

H.K.C.C.	
Hancock	2 1 2 10 7
Gibson	0 1 31 1
Lamont	5 1 22 0
Gray	3 2 2 0
Hooley	2 0 5 0

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

The flowers of *Olea fragrans*, now open on several bushes in the gardens (for instance by the path leading down from the deer-house in the new gardens), are among the most fragrant for their size in the vegetable kingdom. Their value is well known to the Chinese, who have had the shrub under cultivation for many centuries in all parts of the Empire. It was known in Europe as early as the beginning of the eighteenth century through James Cunningham, the pioneer of English collectors in China, who sent specimens from Chusan to his friend Plukenet, the distinguished keeper of the Royal Garden at Hampton Court.

The *Erythrina* now in flower at the end of the Greyville walk, exhibits in a striking manner the economy of flowering in the absence of leaves. Its scarlet flowers form a conspicuous object on the leafless branches and must attract a sufficiency of insects for fertilising purposes besides having the whole resources of the tree at their disposal until the young leaves appear.

The fruit of *Spathodea Caudafelina*, a tree of which stands near the aviary, bears such a striking resemblance, as the name implies, to a cat's tail that it must immediately occur to the observer whether the similarity is not of some use to the species. The seeds are adapted to be disseminated by the wind and would therefore gain nothing by being enclosed in a fruit made attractive for birds and animals to eat, as is the case in more fleshy and brightly coloured fruits. It is probable on the contrary that the imitation of the tail of a cat or some other small carnivorous native of South China (the natural home of the tree) may have the effect of scaring birds away which might otherwise injure the seeds. The tree seems to be avoided by birds.

MASONIC.

CATHAY CHAPTER.

At a meeting of the above Chapter, held at the Masonic Hall, Zetland Street, on Saturday night, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—T. F. Hoagh, 1st P.; G. P. Lamont, 2nd P.; E. H. Ray, 3rd P.; C. H. Blason, Scribe E.; C. W. Longuet, Scribe N.; W. A. Sims, Treasurer; J. W. C. Bonnar, P.S.; W. J. Wyly, D.C.; A. R. Lowe, Steward; and J. Vaastone, Tyler.

THE A.D.C. AT THE THEATRE.

The final performance of *His Excellency* by the Amateur Dramatic Club at the Theatre on Saturday evening was witnessed by a full house so demonstrative in its appreciation that recalls were frequent, and the performance in consequence considerably prolonged. This, however, can hardly have displeased anybody, for from start to finish the performance was an unqualified success, and would have been no discredit to a London stage. All concerned in the production of the piece deserve the heartiest congratulations upon their success and we are certain we shall be expressing the sentiments of the community in publicly thanking the members of the A.D.C., and in particular Mr. E. W. Mitchell, its leading spirit, for adding so agreeably to the gaiety of our Colonial life.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

The attention of Hongkong and of the Colony's numerous visitors is rapidly being concentrated on the Races, which begin tomorrow; and, as there is a great dearth of war news, there is little to distract our attention—except, of course, the calls of business. I am rather tempted to envy our friends from Shanghai who come down for China New Year and are stopping over the Race Meeting. When can we in Hongkong take as long a holiday? Yet I noticed in a local paper recently that a correspondent's appeal to the Editor to say whether we did not have too few holidays in Hongkong was met by a stern negative. From an Editor, of all men, this was cruel. But I am given to understand that Editors have so much grown to like constant work that they expect other and non-editorial men to do the same. This week, however, even in Hongkong, is claimed as an almost universal holiday after about 12 o'clock in the morning. We only want a continuance of the present delightful weather to make the holiday a very pleasant one. Some people, no doubt, will add that they also want a few winners.

A gentleman who has made a study of the defences of Hongkong—that is to say, as far as a mere civilian can study them—points out to me the utter inadequacy of the protection provided for the very heart of the island's vitality, Tytan Reservoir. From the direction of Waglan the great retaining wall of the reservoir could be destroyed with a few accurately placed shells and Hongkong made practically uninhabitable or liable to capitulation to an enemy. Of course such an occurrence is a remote contingency, but recent events at Port Arthur have shown how swift-moving warships can rush in and strike hard and sure and get away again in safety. The Engineers are engaged at present in constructing a new military road up the hill which stands on the north of Tytan, so that it looks as if the Garrison authorities are at last going to provide batteries to cover the waterworks.

I note that the *Times* correspondent at this port has fallen into an error, whether intentional or the fruits of carelessness I am unable to say. Referring to the despatch by the China Association of a telegram to Mr. Chamberlain in support of his scheme of fiscal reform, he says that the Chamber of Commerce, being a cosmopolitan body, has decided not to discuss the question. I do not think the Chamber of Commerce did anything of the kind; the question was not, I believe, before the Committee even, and certainly was not laid before the members. He then adds that arrangements had been "made by leading journals to hold a *plébiscite* on the 16th inst. of the leading British community." The truth is that the arrangements were made, not by the Press, but by half a dozen leading residents, mostly members of the Legislative Council, for the *plébiscite* to be held, and to them was due both the inception and carrying out of this idea.

When, I wonder, is the Bill to authorise the construction of the projected new tramway to the Victoria Gap to be read in the Legislative Council. I hear that the Secretary of State gave his sanction to such a Bill being introduced some time ago, so I presume it will shortly come on for first reading. This projected line is of importance to the Colony not so much by reason of its affording an alternative route to the heights and also providing for the ever growing traffic to the Peak District, but as giving access to the upper levels of the City of Victoria. There will be stations for Caine, Robinson, and Conduit Roads, and residents on those levels will then become practically relieved from their present dependence on the chair-coolies, who periodically strike for higher wages or treat their employers to a special outburst of insolence. At present it is possible to run the line up the route surveyed, but a few years hence this might become impossible through growth of buildings or vested interests. It is well therefore to seize the opportunity, and the promoters are acting with foresight and enterprise.

For refined cruelty it is difficult to find any worse examples than the Chinese. The love of inflicting pain seems to be as strong in the child as in the adult. In Wallington Street the other day I saw a crowd of Chinese children gleefully over the agonies of a tiny mouse, to whose tail they had tied a large piece of newspaper. To cap their joke one of the youthful torturers set the paper alight. A young lady who was passing promptly came to the rescue and soundly cuffing as many of the boys as she could get at. In the same neighbourhood my notice was attracted by a beautiful butterfly that was flying very low, as if in distress of some sort. So it was. Close examination showed that a long piece of blue yarn was tied to its body, and its agonised flight was being watched with apparent delight by a crowd of Chinese men and boys.

A sportsman who was out pigeon-shooting in the New Territory had a curious experience. He was concealed in the bushes below some trees while his companion was driving the birds in. As he was waiting for a shot a huge hawk came swooping down towards him. Thinking it was going to attack him he lifted his gun to fire whereupon the bird gave a loud scream, dropped something from its claws, and flew off in another direction. The object which the hawk had let fall proved to be a half-grown chicken, alive, but so severely mauled that it died shortly afterwards. What with foxes and these hawks, the rearing of poultry in the New Territory is said to be next to an impossibility at this season of the year.

BANYAN.

FOOTBALL.

H.K.F.C. v H.M.F. "OCEAN."

The above, a match in the second round of the Shield competition, was played on Saturday, resulting in a win for the *Ocean* by 3 goals to 2. It was a bright afternoon when the respective teams met on the parked-up Happy Valley ground. The *Oceans* wore dark green shirts; the Club were white. That the game was of more than ordinary interest was shown by the large attendance. It is very doubtful whether there has been such a turn-out in the Happy Valley this season. The pavilion was filled, while three sides of the field itself were completely lined by a mixed gathering in which, of course, patches of red and of blue were frequent. As is always the case on such occasions, the Services men received far more encouragement by way of cheering, applause, etc., than the other side. There is little doubt that manifestations of good wishes from without have a material effect on the play. There seemed a slight tendency to "barracking" in one part of the field, but the individual who made himself prominent was obviously good-tempered, if undiscriminating. The *Ocean* kicked off with a strong sun in their eyes, and got a foul-kick in centre field awarded them within a minute from the start. Afterwards, rather than kicking the Club pressed up towards the Navy goal, and Cooper sent a nice pass out to Williams, who missed his kick and the ball went by. The homesters returned to the attack shortly, and Whitmore kicked past. The *Ocean* now had their first look-in. Downie and Walsley piloted the ball down the centre; Vaughan finished badly from the wing and Hancock cleared. Another promising opening for the sailors was spoiled by Bonnar, at the expense of a fruitless corner. By a foul which was given against Bonnar for charging Walsley, the Navy got into close quarters with Kew. After a scrimmage Walsley sent in a stinger which the Club goal-keeper caught and threw out; but the referee decided that the ball had been over the goal-line, and awarded a point to the *Ocean*. Vaughan had other two fine tries during the next few minutes, missing by only a hair's-breadth. Hancock with Bonnar's assistance got play transferred to the *Ocean* end, and Cooper and Williams had both unsuccessful shots at McDiarmid's charge. Danby also had a fine long shot after a brilliant run up a wing—with equally ineffective results. A dangerous run by Hancock was stopped by McDiarmid when the Club man looked like scoring. Then the *Ocean* got away on the run; when nearing the Club goal Coranbe passed into centre and Downie headed the ball through, giving Kew no chance to save. Just before half-time Vaughan sent in a beauty which struck the side of the net. Half-time score—*Ocean*, 2; Club, 0. From the kick-off the Club pressed; the ball was returned by Schwan and was rushed up the left wing, Vaughan finishing with a long shot, which went past. Next time the *Ocean* attacked, Downie, who was keeping his forwards splendidly together, sent in a hard kick that just missed the goal. Then Spinner had a try from the right, followed up by another good attempt by Vaughan. From the goal-kick the Club took up the running. Hancock guided the ball down the centre and passed to Whitmore, who made a plucky attempt, but shot past. A couple of minutes afterwards Whitmore got hold of the ball again, and after contriving to dribble past both Hall and McIntyre he shot at close quarters and scored the first point for the Club. Whitmore followed up his success by another try that was ineffective and Williams also had a long shot at goal that struck the side of the net. But play did not remain long in the Navy end of the field; the whole forward line of the *Ocean* attacked the Club territory, and from a pass by Downie Spinner again beat Kew with a stinging shot. The Club showed no signs of being disheartened; Williams and Cooper carried the ball down the wing and a fine centre which struck the crossbar and bounced into the mouth of the goal was banged into the net by Danby. During the last part of the game play shifted about rapidly from one end to the other, first one goal and then another being assailed. Both goalkeepers were forced to handle; Kew saved a hard shot by Spinner. When time was signalled the score stood—

Ocean, 3 goals; Club, 2.

The game might fairly have been a draw, though the first half was distinctly in favour of the *Ocean*. The Club were rather lifeless for the greater part of the game before the interval and courted their defeat. In the second half they played a very good game generally, but their backs were very poor. This disorganised the half-back line, for Bonnar was continually running back to supply the deficiencies of the men immediately behind him. He played a good hard game throughout and was absolutely everywhere. Toward the end he seemed to tire and his foot-work fell off; but as may be imagined, he was heavily handicapped, since he could rely only on F. H. Kew (who was excellent as usual in goal) if the ball passed the half-backs. C. T. Kew and Gray were both good, the former being especially neat in his stopping of the opposing forwards. That Hancock was the best forward on the field was universally admitted. He has evidently not lost his Cartesian skill in the management of the ball. Williams and Cooper played admirably together on the right wing, but Cooper showed a tendency to hamper Hancock by keeping too close to him. Whitmore was fast and effective, and Danby, though his pace is not so great as it used to be, put in some good work. The *Ocean* men were a heavier lot, but they played a clean game, and in the first half beat the Club on their merits. Their forwards made light of the opposing full-backs, and but for the excellence of the Club halves would have had matters their own way. Spinner perhaps distinguished himself most among

them; but Holt, the centre half, was the mainstay of the whole team. The backs too were strong—Holt's accident of course weakened him a bit at the end—and the goal-keeper did his work quite adequately, though he seemed to allowed while handling the ball.

The teams were:—

H.M.S. *Ocean*.—McDiarmid, goal; McIntyre and Hall, backs; Wright, Holt, and Schwan, halves; Spinner, Cornabe, Downie, Walsley, and Vaughan, forwards.

H.K.F.C.—F. H. Kew, goal; H. C. Austen and V. P. Anco, backs; H. C. Gray, J. W. C. Bonnar, and C. T. Kew, halves; W. M. Williams, C. R. S. Cooper, R. Hancock, R. A. Whitmore, and J. D. Danby, forwards.

Referee.—Mr. Davies.

PANAY WOMEN IN HONGKONG.

ASSISTANCE BY LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES.

Spectators watching the football at Happy Valley on Saturday afternoon evinced some curiosity at the unusual appearance of a group of eleven rather handsome Panay women, garbed in flimsy gauze dresses peculiar to the Philippine Islands. These women were amongst those intended to represent the United States' new Far Eastern possession at the S. Louis World's Fair. They have disembarked at Hongkong, however, and do not intend to proceed further, complaining of ill-treatment at the hands of the contractor, an American, who was acting to their transportation and upkeep. The story is an interesting one; it is as follows:—

Ninety-three natives (men and women) of Panay Island, Iloilo Province, embarked on the U.S. transport *Minore* recently, having been collected together by Mr. Healy, a contractor assisted by Mr. Culson. It was intended that the women were to make a display of native weaving, also taking stalls for the sale of Philippine produce. Included in the men was a full orchestra well practiced in native music. On the *Minore*, it appears, they were herded together on deck like so many cattle. On complaining bitterly to Mr. Healy promises of better times after the arrival at Manila were made. At Manila they were sent on board the s.s. *Shawmut*, and berthed in the steerage in company with some 200 other natives, mostly semi-savages from the hills, Igorrotes and Negritos. The latter were not considered pleasant fellow-passengers, but no redress was forthcoming, though the unfortunate women, weeping bitterly, protested strongly against the treatment. Some of them, indeed, made their way to the shore, remaining there. Eventually a complaint was lodged with the Manila authorities. Mr. Worcester, Civil Commissioner, was despatched to the *Shawmut*, with the result that the women were berthed in second cabin instead of the more public steerage accommodation, where naught but a canvas screen divided their sleeping apartment from that of the men. All went well till arriving at Mariveles, when they were ordered back to the steerage, greatly to their disgust and consternation. On reaching Hongkong last Monday one of the men, a native of Iloilo, went ashore to visit a relative residing here. Next day two men, and three women did likewise. Mr. Healy sent them a message ordering an immediate return. They arrived back on Wednesday, accompanied by some of their Hongkong friends, and informed Mr. Healy that the women did not intend to come back unless their cabin-berths were restored to them. Moreover, if Mr. Healy did not see to this matter other women would also leave the vessel. Mr. Healy, after some considerable delay, replied that he could not allow any more of them to go ashore. Mr. d'Almeida e Castro, solicitor, then consulted; he advised them to seek protection from the Police authorities. After an interview with Mr. Wodehouse, an Inspector of Police was sent on board the *Shawmut*. Mr. Healy told him that the Filipinos were under agreement. The Inspector replied that the police had nothing to do with that. If any passengers desired to leave the steamer they were at liberty to do so. In all eleven women, and three men availed themselves of the opportunity. Mr. Healy accompanied them to the U.S. Consulate next day, when he claimed that if these Filipinos persisted in refusing to re-embark they would have to refund the passage money he had paid for their transportation to America. In reply it was argued that he had not treated them properly, and, on these grounds, they would not further entrust themselves to his care. In the face of this contention, however, it appears that they signed a document under protest at the Consulate, to the effect that they would refund the passage money. On Friday Mr. Healy said that before their trunks be permitted to leave the steamer he should like to examine the contents for stolen property. The fourteen Filipinos refunded their salary up to date. The women, by the way, were receiving wages at the rate of 15 Centavos a month, the men higher rates. The refugees are still at Hongkong; they hope, however, to be able to return home at an early date. It is to be sincerely hoped that a thorough investigation will be instituted. It appears that the wording of the agreement, which is drawn out in English, makes no reference to ill-treatment. That, of course, considering that it was an agreement between an educated man on the one part and more or less uneducated Filipino weavers, who could not understand a word of English, on the other part, is as might be expected.

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UPREME COURT.

Saturday, 20th February.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CHARGE OF INFANTICIDE.

Fang Lung and his wife Cheung Kam Fung were brought up on a charge of having on 14th January at Fanling, in the Sham-shui district of the New Territory, killed their female infant child, aged eight days.

They pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. T. Hunter, J. I. Andrew, H. A. Siebs, C. F. Grey, T. Amott, S. Swart, and N. K. Davidson.

The Attorney-General in his opening statement said the charge against the prisoners was that they so neglected their infant child that it died; of having treated it so negligently and improperly contrary to the duty imposed upon them by nature as parents that it died. It appeared that the woman gave birth to a female child in Fanling village at her husband's house about the 6th of January. Fanling was just within the borders of the New Territory. On 14th January an Indian constable while on his patrol met the male prisoner about half-a-mile from his house carrying a bundle of matting. The constable stopped the man and on examining his bundle found the little child wrapped in it. The child had no clothing on it. The body was extremely emaciated, covered with sores, very dirty, bleeding at the right eye, and bruised in several places. The child was taken to Sham-shui Police Station, where it died shortly afterwards. On a post-mortem examination it appeared that the child's stomach was absolutely empty. Dr. Hunter would tell them that in his opinion the child's death was due to neglect. When the constable met the male prisoner the latter was going in the direction of a stream. The Crown suggested that he was taking the bundle to the stream to put it in. It is explained that his nephew was about to be married, and that as the presence of a dying child on such an occasion was contrary to Chinese custom they had therefore to dispose of it. The mother said the child was very weakly from its birth and subject to sores, and he gathered from her statement that she meant this—that the child was not able to be brought up and so they let it die.

Evidence was then called. Three relatives of the prisoners who had been subpoenaed to give evidence as to the birth of the child were absent and their bail was estreated. Evidence was given by the Indian constable who arrested the male defendant; by Sergeant Gerrard of Sham-shui Station; the Chinese doctor, Lan Lei; Dr. Hunter, who made the post-mortem examination; and the sergeant-interpreter, who took the prisoners' statements.

The male prisoner when asked if he had any thing to say, stated that his wife gave birth to the child on 6th January. Three days after its birth some sores come out on it and it could not take milk on the seventh morning. They called an old woman to come and see it. She asked him how long it was born and he told her it was a six-months' child. The old woman said there was no use of looking at it; that its destiny was fixed, as it had not been carried for the full period of gestation. The child died on the night of the 14th. When he was intercepted by the constable he was carrying the body to Shekfu market-town. They in the country did not know his Lordship's laws; if they had known them they would have got the necessary permission and there would not have been this trouble.

The female prisoner had nothing to say.

Dr. Lan Lei, re-called, stated that the child was a fully-born child.

His Lordship in charging the jury said that there was nothing different between the law of China and the law of England with regard to infanticide. There was no evidence on that point, however, and therefore he would ask them to dismiss that from their minds; but at the same time the prisoners were rather suggesting that according to the Chinese law it was all right. It was nothing of the kind. There had been repeated proclamations issued by the Chinese Government against the custom of infanticide; he had read translations of these himself. There certainly was a prevalent custom on the part of parents that if they got a superfluous baby, especially if it was a female, they thought as little of it as of a puppy and allowed it to die.

The jury without retiring returned an unanimous verdict of guilty, but recommended the prisoners to mercy.

His Lordship in passing sentence said the prisoners had behaved very badly. Even the animals took care of their little off-spring. They were human beings; that little child never asked to be brought into the world. The prisoners brought it into the world and it was their bounden duty to take care of it and tend it. The law of China as well as the law of England threw that duty on the parents. He knew that in some parts of China there had been customs of getting rid of superfluous female babies by drowning them. For many centuries past the Emperors from time to time had issued proclamations forbidding such a custom under severe penalties. Therefore even according to the Chinese laws the prisoners had no excuse for what they had done. His Lordship bore in mind that they were very ignorant people, but he must make some sort of example of them so as to warn people round their neighbourhood that they must not do the same thing. Taking into consideration the jury's recommendation to mercy, he would pass sentence on each of the prisoners of six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

The Court adjourned till to-day at 10 a.m.

NOTICE.

Owing to the Great Increase in the Furniture Business of Messrs. ACHEE & CO., we are requested by them to Resum Management of the Photographic Business hitherto carried on in their name on our behalf. From this date we will continue the Photographic business at the same place under the name of

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Hongkong 3rd December, 1903.

JAPAN'S FINANCIAL STATE.

The Tokyo correspondent of the *Times*, writing in December, said:—It has been repeatedly alleged in ill-informed circles that the present state of Japan's finances handicaps her heavily for fighting purposes. Precisely the same estimate found general credence at the outset of the war in 1894. But in truth Japan's position today is incomparably better than it was then. She has in the vaults of the Central Bank specie aggregating 113 million yen (\$11,300,000), an altogether unprecedented amount. There also remains to the bank a legal margin of 35 millions of note-issuing power, which will probably be expanded to at least 50 millions when the inevitable year's end drain is succeeded by the spring deposits. Out of the proceeds of the 50 million yen worth of bonds sold abroad last year, a great part lies in hard money in London. Next fiscal year's Budget shows a revenue of 22½ million yen against an expenditure of 28½ millions, a surplus of over 41 millions being thus available. The Treasury has also in hand three capital funds—the Naval Maintenance Fund (30 millions), the Education Fund (10 millions), and the Famine Relief Fund (10 millions)—one-half of this total of 50 millions being in specie. Finally the market rate of interest, which ranged from 10½ to 12½ last year, is now quoted at 6½, and the banks throughout the country are embarrassed with funds for which they cannot find any profitable use. Japan's actual outlays during her war with China in 1894-95 were 16½ million yen on account of the army and 35 million yen on account of the navy, in which figures there were included large sums for the purchase of transports, munitions, and ammunition, none of which expenses would now have to be incurred. As far as the hard-money side of the account, the aggregate outlays did not reach 12 million yen. It may be said, therefore, that the financial situation is now notably favourable for Japan.

"THE EMPIRE OF THE SAHARA."

The development of M. Jacques Lebaudy's Empire of the Sahara is about to take a turn which will be of some interest to Canada and the United States. M. Lebaudy has decided to draw the officers and non-commissioned officers for two battalions of his Imperial Life Guards from Great Britain and the United States, and in pursuance of this idea he will submit to President Roosevelt an invitation to name any officers of his former Rough-Riders whom he can personally recommend for commission. The British officers will be drawn from the 17th Lancers and the Royal Horse Artillery. The battalion will be the Emperor's Guard.

Colonel George Gouraud, who as Governor-General of Sahara, is organising a military establishment for M. Lebaudy, said on the 18th ult.:

"It is proposed, besides the formation of the battalions of Life-Guards, to organise a Sahara Constabulary which will police the country somewhat along the lines of the Canadian North-West Mounted Police. The Constabulary will be composed wholly of American negroes, but whether under white or coloured officers has not yet been decided. The management of the entire force will be in the hands of a retired British Army officer, who has already been selected—a man with an unsurpassed war record. Extensive farm lands will be allotted on which ex-officers and the men of the Constabulary can obtain homestead rights, if they choose, at the end of the period of enlistment. We purpose also to encourage the emigration of the American negroes to the new empire, selecting only approved settlers who will be chosen by thoroughly reliable agents, scattered throughout the United States. Personally I believe this scheme will gain the support of the American negroes to an extent which no other emigration plan has ever yet attained, because it will not involve the taking of them to a purely negro colony, but will settle them in a new and prosperous land, with a mixed white and black population."

LATEST STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

The M. M. steamer *Sydney*, with the next French mail, left Saigon on the 21st inst., at 4 a.m., for this port.
The C.P.R. steamer *Empress of India* left Yokohama on the 19th inst., p.m., for Victoria and Vancouver.
The steamer *Zefiro* left Manila on the 20th inst., at 10 a.m., and is due here to-day, at 1 p.m.
The A.A. steamer *Bromar*, from New York, is due here on the 28th inst.



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Hongkong, 18th February, 1904. [39]

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Hongkong, 10th March, 1903.

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PAID-UP CAPITAL... 687,500 0 0
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Width of Entrance on Top... 89
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Extreme Length... 371 feet
Length on Blocks... 350
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HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of the
shareholders in the Hongkong and Shanghai
Banking Corporation was held on Saturday in
the City Hall. Mr. A. J. Raymond (chairman)
presided, and there were also present Mr.
H. E. Tomkins, Hon. C. W. Dickinson, E. Goetz,
A. Haupt, H. Shubert, E. Skellim, N. A. Siebs,
H. W. Slade, C. A. Tomes, E. S. Wheller,
(directors), J. R. M. Smith (chief manager),
G. C. C. Master, H. M. Bevis, H. Humphreys,
H. N. Mody, J. S. Nicholson, C. W. May,
C. J. Gansalves, J. R. Michael, H. F. R.
Hunter, Lau Wei Chun, E. George, J. A.
Chinoy, H. A. F. Denny, D. Forbes, P. A.
Barlow, G. de Champeaux, K. McK. Ross, E.
A. Hewitt, J. Orange, G. H. Potts, G. M.
Baird, A. V. Apear, H. M. S. Joseph, J. M. S.
Alves, J. H. Lewis, R. K. Leigh, W. H.
Potts, P. H. Potts, J. J. Leiria, W. Lysaght,
Capt. F. D. Goddard, S. Hancock, and others.

The notice convening the meeting was read.
The CHAIRMAN after reading the directors'
report said—Gentlemen,—Your directors are
very pleased to come before you with the favour-
able report which I have just read. I feel sure
that all our shareholders, and more especially
those at home, will be glad to find that, notwith-
standing the unusual and serious conditions
prevailing during the past year, in consequence
of the political situation in the Far East, we are
able to recommend a dividend of £1.10, and a
bonus of 10/- per share, and also the transfer of
£500,000 to credit of silver reserve fund. As
regards our sterling reserve of £1,000,000 your
directors have deemed it advisable to make some
adjustment of our investments in view of the
serious fall in the price of all first class securities.
You will observe in the balance sheet that our
holdings of £570,000 2½ per cent. Consols have
been written down to 55. The National War
loan of which we hold £255,000 is redeemable
in 1901 at par and that stock is quoted at about
97; we have therefore allowed it to remain un-
changed in our books at 90, but the other ster-
ling securities amounting to £235,000, all of
them gilt-edged stocks, have been written down
to £236,000, which is considerably lower than the
present market prices. Then apart from
reserve fund our investments appearing under
the heading of Consols, Colonial and other se-
curities, as £8,784,467.89 have likewise suffered
in the general depreciation and for these ample
provision has also been made. We may reason-
ably expect to see all these securities re-
cover in value in course of time, but I am sure
it will be a satisfaction to everyone interested
in the welfare of the Bank to know that we are
keeping along these safe lines of policy
which have brought us to our present strong
position. (Applause.) I may mention that
these securities largely consist of British Gov-
ernment stocks. We have such a big interest
in the Far East in the ordinary course of our
business that it has not been the custom to in-
clude that field in our separate investments to
any great extent. Compared with the last
report the other figures in the balance sheet do
not present any very striking feature. Our
assets have slightly increased, our cash and cir-
culation continues to expand, our note circula-
tion continues to expand and our bills payable stand
at £20,583,914.55 against £12,273,675.78 last half
year, but these items are usually higher in
December than in June. On the other side the
amount of our cash and also of our bullion in
hand and in transit is larger; bills discounted
loans and credits show a decrease of about
£7,000,000, while in bills receivable there is an
increase of £11,000,000. All the writing down
which I have mentioned has been effected out
of current profits, so that the result of the half
year's working is really better than at first sight
appears from the report; that result, gentlemen,
bears better testimony than any words from me
to the efficiency of our managers and staff gen-
erally, and in order to mark out appreciation of
their successful efforts we have voted them a
bonus of fifteen per cent. on their salaries, and
I trust will meet with your approval. (Applause.) I do not think that there has been
anything in the general course of trade as
reflected in our business which calls for
special comment, unless it be the phenom-
enal rise and violent fluctuations in the
price of cotton and this, I fear, will have an
adverse effect on the import trade all over the
East for some time to come. And now, gen-
tlemen, in conclusion, one word on the political
situation. In my speech at the last general
meeting six months ago I ventured to express
the hope that the efforts of diplomacy might
settle the difficulties then threatening the
peace of the Far East. Unfortunately that
hope has not been fulfilled. All that I can
now say is that I very earnestly desire—I am
sure we all very earnestly desire—that the war
which has broken out between Russia and
Japan may be brought quickly to an end, and
that it may result in a lasting peace based on
the principle of the maintenance of the integrity
of China (including the sick and fertile pro-
vince of Manchuria), with its vast commercial
potentialities, and the effectual operation of
the policy of the open door with equal trading
opportunities for all. In the meantime you
may rest assured that the management is fully
alive to the gravity of the situation, and will
use every endeavour to safeguard your interests.
If any shareholder desires any further in-
formation I shall be glad to answer any ques-
tion (Applause).

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN
moved that the report and accounts be adopted.
Mr. MARSHALL—Mr. Chairman, and gen-
tlemen, I have much pleasure in seconding
the adoption of the report and accounts as pre-
sented. The report before us combined with
the able speech we have just heard from the
chair cannot fail to meet with the utmost satis-
faction from all shareholders. Gentlemen,
such results as the report shows cannot be
achieved without the most careful attention and
thorough efficiency on the part of all responsible,
and I think you will agree with me when I
express great satisfaction that the ability and
efficiency of our managers and staff is being
recognised in a small way by the bonus we are
asked to vote to them. (Applause).

The motion was agreed to.
Mr. MARSHALL proposed, and Mr. HUMPHREYS
seconded, that the appointment of Mr. C. A.
Tomes to the Board of Directors in place of
the Hon. R. Shewan resigned be confirmed,
and that Mr. E. Goetz and the Hon. C. W.
Dickson be re-elected.

The motion was agreed to.
On the motion of Mr. G. de CHAMPEAUX,
seconded by Mr. McK. Ross, the Hon. C. S.
Sharp and Mr. W. Hutton Potts were re-elected
auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business,
gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance.
Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday.
Mr. ORANGE—Gentlemen, before we part I
have pleasure in proposing a hearty vote of
thanks to the chairman, the chief manager and
staff of the Bank. The report which has just
been passed to-day is an eloquent tribute to the
ability and skill which they have displayed in
the conduct of the Corporation. (Applause).
The meeting then dispersed.

SHARE REPORT.

Messrs. Erich Georg & Co. say in their
Weekly Share List, dated Hongkong, 19th
February—Chinese New Year holidays have
interfered with the business, and hardly any-
thing has been done in shares during the week
under review, rates showing a further inclina-
tion to weakening, of which movement but very
few stocks are excepted. The sterling demand
rate on London is 18.10 11/16d, while the rate
on Shanghai are 71 1/2 for a T/T, and 71 1/4
for a three days sight Private Bill.

BANK SHARES.—Hongkong and Shanghai
sold in a small way at \$635 and have further
sellers; the London quotation is £61. Nationals
can be placed at \$34.

MARINE INSURANCE SHARES.—Unchanged
and without business.

FIRE INSURANCE SHARES.—Hongkong
can still be placed at \$305, but only to a moderate
extent, while Chinese sold at \$31 to \$30 1/2, and
have further sellers at latter rate. The report
of the China Fire Insurance Company has just
appeared in print, and will be analysed in our
next circular; it is proposed to pay a dividend of
\$7 per share and add \$52,915.14 to extra reserve
fund.

SHIPPING SHARES.—Hongkong, Canton and
Macao have dropped to sellers at \$28. Indos
sold at \$34 to \$33 and have sellers at latter rate;
the Shanghai rate is 71 1/2. China and Mani-
la are obtainable at \$24, Douglas at \$33, Star
Ferries at \$30 for old and \$19 for new shares
(after a sale at \$18), and Shells at 21/-.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars sold at \$106 to
\$107 cash, and are in demand at \$106 1/2; time
shares are offering. Lazos unchanged.

MINING SHARES.—Unchanged and without
sales.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hong-
kong and Whampoa Docks sold at \$207 to
\$216 and are on offer at the latter rate.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are still
improved after at \$95. New Amoy Docks are
offering at \$97 1/2. Farman has advanced in
the north to 71 1/2, while the quotation for
Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves is unchanged,
viz. 71 1/2.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hong-
kong Land Investment and Agency Company
shares have been done at \$149 and in no shares
are on offer. Kowloon Lands have sellers at
\$35. West Point at \$34, Hongkong Hotels at
\$146, and Bannan's at \$106, after a sale
at that rate, Shanghai Lands are quoted 71 1/2,
12 1/2 in the north. The Liquidators of the
Oriental Hotel in Manila have issued a final
report, from which it appears that a final
return of \$7.77 per share will be made to share-
holders, making in all \$57.77 per share (vide
our circular of 21st November 1903).

COTTON MILLS.—Unchanged and without
business.

The 9th ordinary meeting of the Soychoe
Cotton Spinning Company, Limited, will be
held on 8th proximo. The report for 1903
has been published, and shows a credit balance
of working account of Tls. 85,738.80 (against
Tls. 120,052.66 for 1902), while rent account
figures with Tls. 2,848.01 (against Tls. 1,987.16
for 1902). Interest account is a little heavier,
being Tls. 22,114.98 (against Tls. 20,224.20 for
1902), while general managers' commissions
figure with Tls. 10,979.64 (against Tls. 17,910.50
in 1902). After allowing for directors' and
auditors' fees (Tls. 2,750), there remains, includ-
ing Tls. 4,905.30 carried forward from 1902, a
credit balance at profit and loss account of Tls.
69,579.42 (against Tls. 52,595.05 at end of 1902).
After deduction of 5 per cent.—Tls. 3,478.97
for the legal reserve fund (increasing same to
Tls. 5,058.72), and 10 per cent.—Tls. 6,057.94
to be granted to the manager as a bonus, in
accordance with article 24 of the rules of
Association (for 1902 the bonus was waived
by the manager), also Tls. 25,102.74 written off
as depreciation of plant and machinery there
remains a balance of Tls. 26,389.77 to be carried
forward to new account. Property account and
buildings appear in the accounts at the old
figure of Tls. 409,409.78, machinery and furni-
ture at Tls. 630,164.33 (against Tls. 677,376.33
as per last account), stock of cotton yarn, mill
stores, etc., with Tls. 277,530.94 (against Tls.
212,776.43 as per last account), unexpired fire
insurance premium with Tls. 3,480.93 (against
Tls. 3,791.97 as per last account), and sundry
debts and cash in hand with Tls. 55,024.36
(against Tls. 137,548.44 as per last report). On
the other hand, over draft with bankers amounts
to Tls. 295,652.19 (against Tls. 366,515.89 as
per last statement), and accounts payable with
Tls. 17,058.08 (against Tls. 21,782.11 as per last
report).

MISCELLANEOUS.—With the exception of
sales of Ropes at \$140. Watsons at \$145, and
Providents at \$9, no business has been made
known. Nearly all stocks have sellers. Lang-
kats are quoted 71 1/2 in the north.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.
INFORMATION has been received from
the MILITARY AUTHORITIES that
GUN PRACTICE will be carried out from
Stowcatchers Island (East Battery) in a South-
Westerly direction at ranges from 600 to 4,500
yards, on the 26th February, 1904, and from
Lyman Sub-District (Redoubt and Pak-sha-
wan Batteries) in the direction of the entrance
to Jack Bay at ranges from 600 to 4,500 yards
on the 26th instant.

If the weather is unfavourable on either of
the above dates, practice will take place on the
1st proximo.

Practice will commence at 9 A.M. on the 26th,
and at 9.30 A.M. on the 29th instant, and end
at 11 A.M. daily, if the range is clear.

By Command,
A. M. THOMSON,
Acting Colonial Secretary.
Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 18th February, 1904.

UNION BREWERY CO. LIMITED,
OF SHANGHAI.

SHARES to be had at No. 3, QUEEN'S
BLDG. of Mr. W. S. NEUBURN.
By Order of Directors, and Pak-sha-
wan Batteries) in the direction of the entrance
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on the 26th instant.

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THE QUEEN OF TABLE WATERS.
PURE, SPARKLING, INVIGORATING

THE LEADING MINERAL WATER OF THE EAST
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Beware of JAPANESE IMITATIONS.
F. BLACKHEAD & CO., AGENTS.
Hongkong, 31st July, 1903.

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REPAIR WORK to Steamers and
Launches. Castings in Brass and Iron.
Moderate charges. Work solicited.
J. D. EDWARDS,
Manager.

Amoy, 3rd December, 1903.

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"NELISTA"

A GOOD SMOKE AT MODERATE COST.

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N. INUZUKA, Manager, Hongkong

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K. UYEMURA, Manager

Hongkong 4th March, 1903.

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